

Message Text

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 5)

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TAGS: TSPA, JA, US

SUBJ: COOPERATIVE SPACE ACTIVITIES - VISIT OF DR. HIDEO SHIMA

REF: A. TOKYO 13944

B. TOKYO A-886

SUMMARY: DR. HIDEO SHIMA, PRESIDENT OF JAPAN NATIONAL SPACE DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (NASDA), PLANNING VISIT WASHINGTON NOVEMBER 15-16. PRIMARY PURPOSE OF VISIT IS TO CONCLUDE AGREEMENT FOR ESTABLISHMENT DOWNRANGE TRACKING STATION ON KWAJALEIN PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 30 DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF BUDGET REQUEST FOR THIS ITEM. ACTION REQUESTED: APPROVAL BY DEPARTMENT OF JAPANESE REQUEST FOR KWAJALEIN USE. END SUMMARY.

1. NASDA SYSTEMS PLANNING DIRECTOR, DR. YASUHIRO KURODA, INFORMED SCICOUNS NOVEMBER 1 THAT NASDA PRESIDENT DR. HIDEO SHIMA, PLANNING WASHINGTON VISIT NOVEMBER 15-16. WHILE ARRANGEMENTS ALREADY BEING MADE BY JAPANESE EMBASSY, WASHINGTON, KURODA CALLED AT SHIMA'S REQUEST TO STRESS IMPORTANCE OF VISIT AND PROVIDE BACKGROUND INFORMATION ON AGENDA TOPICS.

2. AGENDA PROPOSED BY NASDA FOR VISIT IS:

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1) PROGRESS REPORT ON "N" ROCKET PROGRAM (SHIMA WILL RE-

VIEW NASDA PROGRESS TO DATE AND SEEK US AGREEMENT FOR FURTHER COOPERATION; I.E., ASSISTANCE ON "N" ROCKET UPGRADING,
2) INSTALLATION OF DOWN-RANGE TRACKING STATION ON KWAJALEIN,
3) LAUNCH SERVICES FOR GEOSTATIONARY METEOROLOGICAL SATELLITE, COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE, AND BROADCAST SATELLITE.

3. KURODA MADE IT CLEAR THAT, WHILE ALL ITEMS IMPORTANT, CRITICAL ITEM DICTATING TIMING OF VISIT IS DOWN-RANGE TRACKING STATION. JAPANESE FINANCE MINISTRY WILL NOT APPROVE FUNDING FOR ACQUISITION OF TRACKING STATION WITHOU DLMNED AGREEMENT WITH US EVIDENCING US APPROVAL FOR USE OF KWAJALEIN. DEADLINE FOR INCLUSION IN FUNDING REQUEST IS END OF NOVEMBER. THUS, SHIMA HOPES TO "SIGN" AGREEMENT DURING WASHINGTON VISIT.

4. NASDA HAS NO CLEAR IDEA OF WHAT FORM AGREEMENT SHOULD TAKE, OR WHO SHOULD SIGN IT. THEY STATE, HOWEVER, THAT TO MEET FINANCE MINISTRY REQUIREMENTS, AGREEMENT CAN BE IN GENERAL TERMS, WITH TECHNICAL DETAILS BEING DEVELOPED LATER. WHILE IT APPEARS THAT SHIMA INTERESTED IN PUTTING HIS OWN SIGNATURE ON AGREEMENT, MORE IMPORTANT CONSIDERATION IS MEETING BUDGET TIME TABLE. PRIOR TO KURODA'S VISIT, EMBASSY HAD ASSUMED THAT AFFIRMATIVE RESPONSE BY USG TO JAPANESE FONOFF'S NOTE VERBALE (REF A) WOULD CONSTITUTE NECESSARY GENERAL AGREEMENT ON KWAJALEIN USE. WE STILL NOT CERTAIN THAT THIS NOT SO; HOWEVER, KURODA SPOKE IN TERMS OF AGREEMENT, PERHAPS IN MEMORANDUM FORM, SIGNED BY BOTH SIDES. (FYI: WE ARE NOT AT ALL SURE THAT SHIMA, AS PRESIDENT OF A GOVERNMENT CORPORATION, AUTHORIZED SIGN AGREEMENT IF DEPARTMENT OF STATE OR OTHER US GOVERNMENT AGENCY IS OTHER PARTY.) EMBASSY WILL SEEK CLARIFICATION OF FORM OF AGREEMENT NEEDED, AND ADVISE DEPARTMENT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. WITH REGARD TO THIRD AGENDA ITEM (LAUNCHING OF JAPANESE SATELLITES), KEY JAPANESE CONCERN IS WHETHER THREE JAPANESE LAUNCHINGS CAN BE ACCOMMODATED IN SHORT TIME-SPAN BETWEEN END OF CALENDAR 1976, WHEN GMS SCHEDULED TO BE LAUNCHED, AND MARCH 31, 1977, END OF JAPANESE FISCAL YEAR 1976, BY WHICH DATE ALL THREE SUPPOSED TO BE LAUNCHED. KURODA DISCLOSED THAT ALTHOUGH ITS OVERALL REVIEW NOT COMPLETED, SPACE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE HAS JUST APPROVED COMMUNICATIONS AND BROADCAST SATELLITE PROJECTS (GMS WAS APPROVED SOMETIME AGO), UNDOUBTEDLY SO THAT SHIMA'S TRIP COULD TAKE PLACE WITH THESE PROJECTS FORMALLY APPROVE.

6. EMBASSY URGES THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO MEET NASDA TIME SCHEDULE ON AGREEMENT USE OF KWAJALEIN FOR DOWN-RANGE TRACKING STATION.

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